

Application No.: 09/806,775

Docket No.: 20386-00294-US

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-20 (canceled)

Claim 21 (new): A method for spraying a material, comprising:

producing a flame using a fuel gas; and

introducing at least first and second components to the flame in such a way that said at least first and second components combine with each other and form a multicomponent material, wherein said first component is introduced to said flame in a gaseous or vaporous form, wherein said second component is supplied to said flame in liquid form and is atomized by a gas substantially in a vicinity of said flame, and wherein said first component, said second component and said fuel gas are supplied to said flame by a common device.

Claim 22 (new): The method of claim 21, wherein said first component, said second component and said fuel gas are supplied to the flame coaxially.

Claim 23 (new): The method of claim 22, wherein said first component is silicon or germanium tetrachloride and said second component is a solution containing erbium nitrate, water or alcohol, and a form of aluminum which is soluble in water or alcohol, such that multicomponent glass particles can be formed to manufacture active fiber.

Claim 24 (new): The method of claim 21, wherein said first component is silicon or germanium tetrachloride and said second component is a solution containing erbium nitrate, water or alcohol, and a form of aluminum which is soluble in water or alcohol, such that multicomponent glass particles can be formed to manufacture active fiber.

Claim 25 (new): A spraying device for spraying of a material, comprising:

means for introducing a fuel gas in such a way that the fuel gas produces a flame;

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a first gas tube for introducing said first component to the flame in a gaseous or vaporous form;

a liquid tube for introducing said second component to the flame in a liquid form; and

a second gas tube for introducing an atomizing gas to a vicinity of the liquid tube for atomizing said liquid component substantially in the vicinity of the flame, wherein said first component, said second component and said fuel gas are arranged to be supplied to said flame by a common device, and wherein said first and second components combine with each other and form a multicomponent material such that said multicomponent material can be sprayed to a desired target by said flame.

Claim 26 (new): The device according to claim 25, wherein said common device comprises a nozzle.

Claim 27 (new): The device according to claim 26, wherein said first gas tube, said liquid tube and said means for introducing said fuel gas are arranged coaxially.